

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01 AID-20 HEW-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 131155Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TH, VN

SUBJECT: CHARUNPHAN ON REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYS
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9. FOLLOWING IS AN
UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON REPATRIATION
OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

REPORTER: WILL WE START NEGOTIATION AGAIN ON
THE SUBJECT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES?

CHARUNPHAN: WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO START NEGOTIA-
TIONS AGAIN. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RED CROSS HAS REPLIED
TO AND INFORMED US THAT IT IS READY TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS
FOR THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, AS WAS
CARRIED OUT IN THE PAST. THIS REPLY WAS SENT TO THE THAI
RED CROSS, WHICH GAVE ME THIS INFORMATION, BUT NO CONTACT
WAS MADE WITH ME.

REPORTER: IS IT GLAD TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN?

CHARUNPHAN: IT IS GLAD TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN
BUT IT IS NOT FULLY PREPARED YET. AT THE TIME WHEN IT
SENT THIS ANSWER THE WAR IN VIETNAME HAD JUST BEEN ENDED.

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WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A SUITABLY LONG TIME BUT WE HAVE
NOT BEEN INFORMED YET OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE MATTER. SHOULD

YOU GO AND ASK PHUN PHIPHIT, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
THAI RED CROSS, YOU MIGHT OBTAIN MORE AND BETTER
INFORMATION BECAUSE HE KNOWS THE SITUATION WELL.

REPORTER: DO YOU KNOW ANY REASON NORTH VIETNAM
MIGHT HAVE FOR NOT REPATRIATING THESE REFUGEES YET?

CHARUNPHAN: CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER FROM VARIOUS
ANGLES CAN LEAD TO MANY DIFFERENT VIEWS, AND ON YOUR PART
ALSO. BUT I FEEL THAT THIS ANSWER RECEIVED BY OUR RED
CROSS GIVES HOPE AND WHEN THE TIME IS REACHED TALKS
WILL MOST PROBABLY BE HELD. SINCE THE MATTER CONCERNS
HUMANITARIANISM AND IT CONCERNS REFUGEES, WE ARE OF THE
VIEW THAT IT CONCERNS THE RED CROSS ON BOTH SIDES TO MAKE
MOVES AND FOR DIRECT CONTRACT TO BE MADE THROUGH THE RED
CROSS.
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